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EXCISE

C184

PAGE 01
ACTION AF-00

JOHANN 02372 01 OF 02 010637Z

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
	DODE-00	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-09
	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	STR-17
	SIL-01	INRE-00	OPM-01	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/084 W				

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R 010835Z DEC 88
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4935
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USIA WASHDC 0186

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PROP, PINR, SF
SUBJECT: SA TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS REPORTEDLY
CRITICAL OF US/SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY; BUSH
ELECTION

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, D
() Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 7/27/02 Exemption 1.5d

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE NEWSPAPER "CITY PRESS", IN AN
ARTICLE HEADLINED "WHAT GEORGE BUSH IN THE WHITE
HOUSE MEANS TO SOUTH AFRICA", QUOTES OFFICIALS
OF BOTH COSATU AND NACTU AS CRITICIZING THE USG
SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY. THE LABOR OFFICIALS
REPORTEDLY FORESEE THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WILL
CONTINUE THE POLICY OF "CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT"
THUS GIVING A "LEASE ON LIFE" FOR THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, [

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Cn
() Classify as (X) Extend as () Downgrd
Date 7/27/02 Declassify on 12/1/13 Reason
X6 1.5

ASSOCIATED [] NACTU FROM [] DIS-
CHARGE THAT THE USG'S POLICY IS "TO UNDERMINE
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 02372 01 OF 02 010637Z

THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES...THROUGH SUBTERFUGE."
END SUMMARY.

2. (U) "CITY PRESS", IN ITS NOVEMBER 20 EDITION,
CARRIED A FEATURE ARTICLE ENTITLED "WHAT GEORGE BUSH IN
THE WHITE HOUSE MEANS TO SOUTH AFRICA." THE ARTICLE
WAS PROVIDED "CITY PRESS" BY THE ALTERNATIVE NEWS
AGENCY AFRICA NEWS ORGANIZATION WHICH IS CRITICAL OF US
GLOBAL FOREIGN POLICY. IT QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM
CUNNINGHAM NGCUKANA, THE NEW FIRST ASSISTANT GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
(NACTU) AND FRANK MEINTJIES, THE INFORMATION OFFICER OF
THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (COSATU).

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NGCUKANA IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE OBJECTIVE OF THE US HAS BEEN OUTLINED IN THE KISSINGER DOCUMENT"... "SO THE BASIS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN TO UNDERMINE THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES OF THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE THROUGH SUBTERFUGE. IT MEANS AT THIS STAGE THAT BUSH, IN PURSUANCE OF THE REAGAN STYLE OF GOVERNMENT, WILL PERSIST WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF UNDERMINING THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA..." TURNING TO THE SANCTIONS ISSUE, NGCUKANA ARGUES THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND DISINVESTMENT WILL MAINLY HURT WHITES AND THUS EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. BUSH'S ELECTION, HOWEVER, WILL GIVE THE SAG A "LEASE ON LIFE" AND "INCREASE THE ANIMOSITY OF OUR PEOPLE" TOWARD THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION.

3. (U) COSATU'S FRANK MEINTJIES IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE ARE DEMANDING DE-ESCALATION OF AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUSH WILL REALISE THE BLUNDERS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN SUPPORTING THE

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PAGE 03 JOHANN 02372 01 OF 02 010637Z

CONTRAS AND THE EFFORTS OF THE CIA TO UNDERMINE OUR STRUGGLE HERE AND THE REST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA." MEINTJIES ADDED THAT THE BUSH VICTORY MEANS BLACK SA WORKERS WILL HAVE TO LIVE FOR A LONGER TIME UNDER APARTHEID.

4. (C) RLO, IN THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION WITH [] ON THE SUBJECT OF THE INCREASE IN INFLUENCE OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS IN NACTU (JOHANNESBURG 2323) RAISED SUBJECT OF NGCUKANA INTERVIEW. RLO OBSERVED THAT WHILE MANY AMERICANS ARE CRITICAL OF ASPECTS OF ADMINISTRATION'S SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY, VERY FEW BELIEVE THAT THE US IS TRYING TO "UNDERMINE THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES...THROUGH SUBTERFUGE" AS NGCUAKA REPORTEDLY CHARGED. SUCH CHARGES WOULD STRIKE MOST AMERICANS AS NAIVE OR PARANOIC. [] REPONDED NGCUKANA WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF ONLY, AND NOT NACTU. [] HE PERSONALLY DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO WHAT NGCUKANA SAID, AND ADDED THAT NGCUKANA'S VIEWS PROBABLY DO NOT EVEN ACCURATELY REFLECT PAC POLICY. (NGCUKANA IS A STRONG PAC SUPPORTER.) RLO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO TRY TO EXPOSE NGCUKANA TO U.S. VIEWS TO INDUCE GREATER REALISM IN HIS THINKING. [] RESPONDED THAT IN LIGHT OF NGCUKANA STRONG ANTI-USG SENTIMENT, A DIRECT APPROACH BY RLO OR THE OFFERING OF A USIS TRAVEL GRANT, AS WAS OFFERED TO NCGUKANA'S PREDECESSOR, WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE. AN ALTERNATIVE COULD BE AN INVITATION BY US TRADE UNIONS FOR NGCUKANA TO

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 02372 02 OF 02 010638Z
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USIA WASHDC 0187

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 JOHANNESBURG 02372

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VISIT THE STATES.

5. (C) RLO ALSO RAISED SUBJECT OF "CITY PRESS" ARTICLE WITH COSATU'S FRANK MEINTJIES. RLO ASKED IF HE HAD BEEN ACCURATELY QUOTED WHEN HE CHARGED THAT THE CIA WAS UNDERMINING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. MEINTJIES,

SAID "CITY PRESS" MISINTERPRETED THE MAJOR THRUST OF HIS REMARKS. HIS POINT WAS COSATU'S CONCERN THAT THE SUPERPOWERS WERE COMPETING FOR INFLUENCE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THE SUPERPOWERS' POLICY OF "GOING EASY" ON THE SAG TO ENHANCE THEIR RELATIONSHIP AND INFLUENCE WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE SUBJUGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Page 3
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02

JOHANN 02372 02 OF 02 010638Z

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OF BLACK PEOPLE. (NOTE: THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE
SOVIET UNION IN THE ARTICLE.) []

CHAVEAS []

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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